(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Microwave Towers

2987. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Microwave Towers targated to be set-up in the country during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 for providing telephone facilities, State-wise;

(b) the details of progress achieved upto October, 1996 against above target State-wise; and

(c) whether the Government are facing financial crisis in achieving the said target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Postel Life Insurance Scheme

2988. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Postal Life Insurance Scheme launched in 1995 is only for the rural population;

(b) if so, whether the premium rates are lower and rates of bonus are higher as compare to LIC;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering open it for every citizen; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Premium rates are lower. Bonus for Rural Postal Life Insurance is yet to be declared after valuation of Rural Post Office Insurance Fund.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The scheme, as its name 'Rural Postal Life insurance' indicated, is meant for the rural folk only. Therefore, as a matter of policy, it cannot be opened for every citizen.

Introduction of New Train From New Delhi to Manmad

2989. SHRI TARIQ ANWER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to start a new train from New Delhi to Manmad, near Shirdi to facilitate the increasing number of pilgrims to Shirdi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Construction of Bridge over River Ganga

2990. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a bridge over river Ganges with a view to link Khagaria and Munger towns; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which construction work is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Tracks between Virar and Dahanu

2991. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the time by which the work in respect of the four tracks railway line between Virar and Dahanu is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : At present there is no proposal for quadrupling of lines between Virar and Dahanu Road.

Automatic Telephone Exchanges

2992. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges functioning in Karnataka as on September 30, 1996, district-wise, location-wise and capacity-wise;

(b) the number of new automatic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Karnataka during 1996-97; and

(c) the amount allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) The number of automatic telephone exchanges functioning in Karnataka as on September 30, 1996 is 2036. Details are indicated at in the enclosed statement.

(b) The number of new automatic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in Karnataka during 1996-97 is 69.

(c) Amount allocated for 1996-97 is Rs. 323.92 crores.